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General Assembly

Fiftieth Session

Official Records

97th plenary meeting
Thursday, 21 December 1995, 3 p.m.
New York

President: Mr. Freitas do Amaral ..... (Portugal)

The meeting was called to order at 3.20 p.m.

Reports of the Third Committee

The President: This afternoon, the General Assembly will consider the reports of the Third Committee on agenda items 103 to 106 and 108 to 111.

I request the Rapporteur of the Third Committee to introduce the reports of the Third Committee in one intervention.

Mr. Mohamed (Sudan), Rapporteur of the Third Committee: It is an honour for me to present the reports of the Third Committee under agenda items 103, 104, 105, 106, 108, 109, 110 and 111. I would like to inform you, Mr. President, and, through you, the members of the General Assembly that the remaining part of my report will be introduced in one statement tomorrow afternoon.

Under agenda item 103, "Elimination of racism and racial discrimination", the Third Committee recommends in paragraph 23 of document A/50/626 the adoption of three draft resolutions and in paragraph 24 the adoption of one draft decision. A correction should be made to paragraph 2 of the report. In the list of summary record documents, document A/C.3/50/SR.15 should be added.

Under agenda item 104, "Right of peoples to self-determination", the Third Committee recommends in paragraph 22 of document A/50/627 the adoption of three draft resolutions.

Under agenda item 105, "Social development, including questions relating to the world social situation and to youth, ageing, disabled persons and the family", the Third Committee recommends in paragraph 25 of document A/50/628 the adoption of four draft resolutions and in paragraph 26 the adoption of one draft decision.

Under agenda item 106, "Crime prevention and criminal justice", the Third Committee recommends in paragraph 22 of document A/50/629 the adoption of three draft resolutions and in paragraph 23 the adoption of one draft decision.

Under agenda item 108, "International drug control", the Third Committee recommends in paragraph 10 of document A/50/631 the adoption of one draft resolution.

Under agenda item 109, "Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, questions relating to refugees, returnees and displaced persons and humanitarian questions", the Third Committee recommends in paragraph 26 of document A/50/632 the adoption of four draft resolutions.

In connection with draft resolution A/C.3/50/L.20/Rev.1, under agenda item 109, the Chairman of the Third Committee made the following statement:

> "As all delegations are aware, Ukraine had expressed concern regarding operative paragraph 23

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This record contains the original text of speeches delivered in English and interpretations of speeches delivered in the other languages. Corrections should be submitted to original speeches only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and be sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned, *within one month of the date of the meeting*, to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, Room C-178. Corrections will be issued after the end of the session in a consolidated corrigendum.

of draft resolution A/C.3/50/L.20/Rev.1 on the 'Office of United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees' and had intended to pursue an amendment to this paragraph. In the spirit of cooperation and not to reopen a draft resolution which was passed by consensus, it has been agreed that, provided their concerns and understanding regarding operative paragraph 23 of that draft resolution were clearly understood, they would not pursue an amendment to the current text of the draft resolution.

"In this regard, I wish to state that the reference to the countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States at the end of operative paragraph 23 pertains to those States which are party to the Convention referred to in the paragraph. This has been agreed to by all concerned.

"I wish to thank Ukraine and all other delegations for their understanding and cooperation and for making it possible to maintain intact an important resolution."

Under agenda item 110, "Promotion and protection of the rights of children", the Third Committee recommends in paragraph 13 of document A/50/633 the adoption of two draft resolutions.

There is a correction to be made in draft resolution I. The original eighteenth preambular paragraph should be reinstated. This paragraph reads as follows:

"Further alarmed, in particular, by the exploitation of child labour in its most extreme forms, including forced labour, bonded labour and other forms of slavery,".

The nineteenth preambular paragraph, which had read

"Expressing the will, at the national and international levels, to end the exploitation of child labour",

should be revised to read as follows:

"Encouraged by measures taken by Governments to eradicate the economic exploitation of child labour".

With respect to draft resolution II, the following delegations should be added to the list of sponsors of the draft resolution: Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Costa Rica, Germany, Guyana, Iceland, Italy, Luxembourg, Mali, the Marshall Islands, the Netherlands, Niger, Norway, Pakistan, Panama, Peru, the Philippines, Trinidad and Tobago, the United Kingdom and Uruguay.

Under agenda item 111, "Programme of activities of the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People", the Third Committee recommends in paragraph 10 of document A/50/634 the adoption of two draft resolutions. I wish to inform that a few corrections have been brought to my attention by the delegations of India and of the Russian Federation. I shall endeavour to make the appropriate corrections.

In conclusion, I would like to thank all the delegations in the Third Committee, in particular those which helped me with the preparation of the reports before the General Assembly. I would like also to thank the secretariat of the Third Committee — Kate Starr Newell, Vivian Pliner-Josephs, Alexandre De Barros and all the support staff — for helping me get these reports ready for introduction today.

As I said earlier, I shall introduce additional reports of the Third Committee at tomorrow afternoon's plenary meeting.

The President: If there is no proposal under rule 66 of the rules of procedure, I shall take it that the General Assembly decides not to discuss the reports of the Third Committee that are before it today.

It was so decided.

The President: Statements will therefore be limited to explanations of vote or position.

The positions of delegations regarding the recommendations of the Third Committee have been made clear in the Committee and are reflected in the relevant official records. May I remind members that under paragraph 7 of decision 34/401 the Assembly agreed that

"When the same draft resolution is considered in a Main Committee and in plenary meeting, a delegation should, as far as possible, explain its vote only once, i.e., either in the Committee or in plenary meeting, unless that delegation's vote in plenary meeting is different from its vote in the Committee".

May I also remind delegations that, also in accordance with General Assembly decision 34/401, explanations of vote are limited to 10 minutes and should be made by delegations from their seats.

Before we begin to take action on the recommendations contained in the reports of the Third Committee, I should like to advise representatives that we shall take decisions in the same manner as in the Committee, unless notified otherwise in advance. This means that where a recorded or a separate vote was taken, we will do the same. I would also hope that we can proceed to adopt without a vote those recommendations that were adopted without a vote in the Third Committee.

Agenda item 103

Elimination of racism and racial discrimination

Report of the Third Committee (A/50/626)

The President: The Assembly will now take a decision on the three draft resolutions recommended by the Third Committee in paragraph 23 of its report and on the draft decision recommended by the Third Committee in paragraph 24.

Draft resolution I, entitled "Measures to combat contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance", corresponds to Third Committee document A/C.3/50/L.5/Rev.1.

The draft resolution was adopted by the Third Committee.

May I take it that the General Assembly too wishes to adopt the draft resolution?

Draft resolution I was adopted (resolution 50/135).

The President: Draft resolution II, entitled "Third Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination", corresponds to Third Committee document A/C.3/50/L.6.

The Third Committee adopted the draft resolution.

May I take it that the General Assembly wishes to do likewise?

Draft resolution II was adopted (resolution 50/136).

The President: Draft resolution III, entitled "Report of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination", corresponds to Third Committee document A/C.3/50/L.9.

This draft resolution was adopted by the Third Committee.

May I take it that the Assembly wishes to adopt the draft resolution?

Draft resolution III was adopted (resolution 50/137).

The President: The General Assembly will now take action on the draft decision recommended by the Third Committee in paragraph 24 of its report.

The draft decision, entitled "Documents considered by the General Assembly in connection with the question of elimination of racism and racial discrimination", was adopted by the Third Committee without a vote.

May I consider that the Assembly also wishes to adopt the draft decision?

The draft decision was adopted.

The President: May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to conclude its consideration of agenda item 103?

It was so decided.

Agenda item 104

Right of peoples to self-determination

Report of the Third Committee (A/50/627)

The President: The General Assembly will now take a decision on the three draft resolutions recommended by the Third Committee in paragraph 22 of its report.

Draft resolution I is entitled "Use of mercenaries as a means to violate human rights and to impede the exercise of the right of peoples to self-determination", and corresponds to Third Committee document A/C.3/50/L.4/Rev.1.

We shall now begin the voting process.

A recorded vote has been requested.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour:

Algeria, Antigua and Barbuda, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Djibouti, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Fiji, Gabon, Ghana, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Jamaica, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Republic of Moldova, Samoa, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Singapore, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Against:

Austria, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Japan, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Sweden, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America

Abstaining:

Albania, Andorra, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, France, Georgia, Greece, Ireland, Israel, Kazakstan, Lithuania, Malta, Monaco, New Zealand, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russian Federation, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Tajikistan, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, Ukraine, Uzbekistan

Draft resolution I was adopted by 106 votes to 18, with 31 abstentions (resolution 50/138).

[Subsequently, the delegations of Afghanistan, Angola, the Gambia and Guinea informed the Secretariat that they had intended to vote in favour; the delegation of Latvia had intended to abstain.]

The President: Draft resolution II, entitled "Universal realization of the right of peoples to self-determination", corresponds to Third Committee document A/C.3/50/L.7.

This draft resolution was adopted by the Third Committee.

May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

Draft resolution II was adopted (resolution 50/139).

The President: Draft resolution III is entitled "The right of the Palestinian people to self-determination" and corresponds to document A/C.3/50/L.8.

We shall now begin the voting process.

A recorded vote has been requested.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour:

Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Antigua and Barbuda, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Djibouti, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger,

Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Romania, Samoa, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Against:

Israel, United States of America

Abstaining:

Argentina, Georgia, Lithuania, Micronesia (Federated States of), Norway, Republic of Moldova, Russian Federation, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan

Draft resolution III was adopted by 145 votes to 2, with 9 abstentions (resolution 50/140).

[Subsequently, the delegations of Afghanistan, Angola and Guinea informed the Secretariat that they had intended to vote in favour; the delegation of Latvia had intended to abstain.]

The President: May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to conclude its consideration of agenda item 104?

It was so decided.

Agenda item 105 (*continued*)

Social development, including questions relating to the world social situation and to youth, ageing, disabled persons and the family

Report of the Third Committee (A/50/628)

The President: The Assembly will now take a decision on the four draft resolutions recommended by the Third Committee in paragraph 25 of its report and the draft decision recommended by the Third Committee in paragraph 26.

We turn first to draft resolution I, entitled "International Year of Older Persons: towards a society for all ages". It corresponds to Third Committee document A/C.3/50/L.2.

This draft resolution was adopted by the Third Committee.

May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

Draft resolution I was adopted (resolution 50/141).

The President: Draft resolution II, entitled "Follow-up to the International Year of the Family", corresponds to Third Committee document A/C.3/50/L.10.

This draft resolution was adopted by the Third Committee.

May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do likewise?

Draft resolution II was adopted (resolution 50/142).

The President: Draft resolution III is entitled "Progress made and problems encountered in the struggle against illiteracy: a mid-decade review; Cooperation to achieve education for all". It corresponds to Third Committee document A/C.3/50/L.11.

This draft resolution was adopted by the Third Committee.

May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do likewise?

Draft resolution III was adopted (resolution 50/143).

The President: Draft resolution IV is entitled "Towards full integration of persons with disabilities in society: implementation of the Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities and of the Long-term Strategy to Implement the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons to the Year 2000 and Beyond". It corresponds to Third Committee document A/C.3/50/L.12/Rev.1.

This draft resolution was adopted by the Third Committee.

May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

Draft resolution IV was adopted (resolution 50/144).

The President: The Assembly will now take a decision on the draft decision recommended by the Third Committee in paragraph 26 of its report. It is entitled "Reports considered by the General Assembly in connection with the question of social development, including questions relating to the world social situation and to youth, ageing, disabled persons and the family".

The draft decision was adopted by the Third Committee.

May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

The draft decision was adopted

The President: May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to conclude its consideration of agenda item 105?

It was so decided.

Agenda item 106

Crime prevention and criminal justice

Report of the Third Committee (A/50/629)

The President: The Assembly will now take a decision on the three draft resolutions recommended by the Third Committee in paragraph 22 of its report and the draft decision recommended by the Third Committee in paragraph 23.

We turn first to draft resolution I, entitled "Ninth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders". It corresponds to Third Committee document A/C.3/50/L.3.

Draft resolution I was adopted by the Third Committee.

May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

Draft resolution I was adopted (resolution 50/145).

The President: Draft resolution II, entitled "Strengthening the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme, particularly its technical cooperation capacity", corresponds to Third Committee document A/C.3/50/L.15.

Draft resolution II was adopted by the Third Committee.

May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do likewise?

Draft resolution II was adopted (resolution 50/146).

The President: Draft resolution III is entitled "United Nations African Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders". It corresponds to Third Committee document A/C.3/50/L.16.

Draft resolution III was adopted by the Third Committee without a vote.

May I take it that the Assembly wishes to adopt draft resolution III?

Draft resolution III was adopted (resolution 50/147).

The President: The Assembly will now take a decision on the draft decision recommended by the Third Committee in paragraph 23 of its report.

The draft decision, entitled "Document considered by the General Assembly in connection with the question of crime prevention and criminal justice", was adopted by the Third Committee without a vote.

May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

The draft decision was adopted.

The President: May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to conclude its consideration of agenda item 106?

It was so decided.

Agenda item 108

International drug control

Report of the Third Committee (A/50/631)

The President: The Assembly will now take a decision on the draft resolution recommended by the Third Committee in paragraph 10 of its report.

The draft resolution is entitled "International action to combat drug abuse and illicit production and trafficking". It corresponds to Third Committee document A/C.3/50/L.14.

The draft resolution was adopted by the Third Committee.

May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 50/148).

The President: May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to conclude its consideration of agenda item 108?

It was so decided.

Agenda item 109

Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, questions relating to refugees, returnees and displaced persons and humanitarian questions

Report of the Third Committee (A/50/632)

The President: I call on the representative of Ukraine who wishes to speak in explanation of vote or position before the vote.

Mr. Kulyk (Ukraine): With reference to the draft resolution entitled "Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees" recommended for adoption by the plenary Assembly by the Third Committee, the delegation of Ukraine has the honour to state the following:

Ukraine has always attached great importance to the problems of refugees. We highly appreciate the activities of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and commend its staff for the competent and dedicated manner in which it has performed its duties in a country which during recent years has become an asylum for tens of thousands of refugees from different parts of the world, especially from States members of the former Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

Ukraine is particularly interested in strengthening the effectiveness of the activities of the UNHCR in settling the problems of refugees.

The delegation of Ukraine actively participated in the elaboration of the present draft resolution, but, regrettably, it does not adequately reflect some of Ukraine's concerns. Moreover, the provisions of operative paragraph 23 are not in conformity with the national legislation of Ukraine.

Conscious of the sensitive and complicated character of the issue and bearing in mind the numerous appeals from the representatives of different countries and organizations, the delegation of Ukraine will join in the consensus on the draft resolution on the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, on the understanding that the provisions of operative paragraph 23 will apply only to those countries that are parties to the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees, in accordance with the provisions of the 1969 Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties.

Furthermore, Ukraine's consent to the provisions of operative paragraph 23 of the draft resolution should not, in any case, be interpreted as a granting of additional powers to the Commonwealth of Independent States on issues related to refugees.

The President: The Assembly will now take a decision on the four draft resolutions recommended by the Third Committee in paragraph 26 of its report.

Draft resolution I is entitled "Assistance to refugees, returnees and displaced persons in Africa". It corresponds to Third Committee document A/C.3/50/L.17.

The draft resolution was adopted by the Third Committee.

May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

Draft resolution I was adopted (resolution 50/149).

The President: Draft resolution II is entitled "Assistance to unaccompanied refugee minors". It corresponds to Third Committee document A/C.3/50/L.18.

The draft resolution was adopted by the Third Committee.

May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

Draft resolution II was adopted (resolution 50/150).

The President: Draft resolution III is entitled "Comprehensive consideration and review of the problems of refugees, returnees, displaced persons and related migratory movements". It corresponds to Third Committee document A/C.3/50/L.19.

The draft resolution was adopted by the Third Committee.

May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do likewise?

Draft resolution III was adopted (resolution 50/151).

The President: Draft resolution IV is entitled "Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees". It corresponds to Third Committee document A/C.3/50/L.20/Rev.1.

This draft resolution was adopted by the Third Committee.

May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

Draft resolution IV was adopted (resolution 50/152).

The President: May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to conclude its consideration of agenda item 109?

It was so decided.

Agenda item 110

Promotion and protection of the rights of children

Report of the Third Committee (A/50/633)

Draft resolution (A/50/L.61/Rev.1)

Report of the Fifth Committee (A/50/832)

The President: The Assembly will first take a decision on two draft resolutions recommended by the Third Committee in paragraph 13 of its report.

Draft resolution I is entitled "The rights of the child". It corresponds to Third Committee document A/C.3/50/L.28.

The draft resolution was adopted by the Third Committee without a vote.

May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do likewise?

Draft resolution I was adopted (resolution 50/153).

The President: Draft resolution II is entitled "The girl child". It corresponds to Third Committee document A/C.3/50/L.31/Rev.1.

The Third Committee adopted draft resolution II without a vote.

May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

Draft resolution II was adopted (resolution 50/154).

The President: The Assembly will next consider the draft resolution contained in document A/50/L.61/Rev.1, entitled "Conference of States Parties to the Convention on the Rights of the Child".

I now call on the representative of Costa Rica to introduce the draft resolution.

Mrs. Castro de Barish (Costa Rica) (*interpretation from Spanish*): Mr. President, I thank you for calling on me to present the draft resolution now before the General Assembly in document A/50/L.61/Rev.1. The purpose of the draft resolution is to present to the plenary General Assembly for approval the recommendation of the Conference of States Parties to the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

The Conference of States parties, which was convened by the Secretary-General of the United Nations under article 50, paragraph 1, of the Convention held a meeting on 12 December 1995 to consider and take a decision on the amendment presented by the Government of Costa Rica to increase the number of experts described in article 43 as being

"of great moral integrity and recognized competence in matters related to the Convention".

In this regard my Government proposed that the word "ten" in article 43, paragraph 2, be replaced by the word "eighteen". This amendment was approved by consensus by the Conference of States parties.

The content of the first preambular paragraph of the draft resolution which I am now presenting has been recognized — that is, the valuable contribution the experts made to the Committee by considering so many serious problems adversely affecting boys and girls of the world. They are the most valuable human resource which we States have, but they are also the most vulnerable of all social sectors. This is evident from the valuable reports of the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on the violations of the rights and moral and physical integrity of children, the exploitation of all kinds and the cruel suffering resulting from armed conflicts. Those are just some of the most deplorable, critical situations facing children.

Furthermore, the spectacular increase in the number of States parties to the Convention on the Rights of the Child — there are now 182, virtually reaching the goal of universality — shows the keen interest which this Convention has aroused in the international community. This fully justifies the proposal for an increase in the number of experts on the Committee on the Rights of the Child, which now has only 10. The increase in the number of States parties has led to a considerable increase in the work of the Committee, which has, among its more important functions, the consideration and evaluation of the reports of those States in relation to their freely contracted obligations. But that is not all that the experts have to do under their mandate. This can easily be seen in various articles of the Convention, but I need mention only article 45, as a whole, to demonstrate that they have important and varied obligations. Therefore, it is logical to give the Committee a number of experts commensurate with the number of States parties to the Convention.

The draft resolution which my delegation is now proposing to the General Assembly approves in operative paragraph 1 the amendment proposed to paragraph 2 of article 43 that replaces the word "ten" with the word "eighteen".

Operative paragraph 2 was revised in order to include a suggestion that had been made. It uses the terms of paragraph 2 of article 50 of the Convention. Its purpose is to urge and encourage States parties to take appropriate measures to ensure that the required two-thirds majority of the States parties accept the amendment as soon as possible so that it can enter into force.

Therefore, I respectfully and cordially appeal to all the representatives in the General Assembly to be good enough to adopt this draft resolution by consensus — following the example of the Conference on States Parties to the Convention.

The President: The Assembly will now take a decision on draft resolution A/50/L.61/Rev.1.

The report of the Fifth Committee on the programme budget implications of the draft resolution is contained in document A/50/832.

May I take it that the Assembly decides to adopt draft resolution A/50/L.61/Rev.1?

Draft resolution A/50/L.61/Rev.1 was adopted (resolution 50/155).

The President: May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to conclude its consideration of agenda item 110?

It was so decided.

Agenda item 111

Programme of activities of the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People

Report of the Third Committee (A/50/634)

The President: The Assembly will now take a decision on the two draft resolutions recommended by the Third Committee in paragraph 10 of its report.

We turn first to draft resolution I, entitled "United Nations Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Populations". It corresponds to Third Committee document A/C.3/50/L.29.

Draft resolution I was adopted by the Third Committee without a vote.

May I consider that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

Draft resolution I was adopted (resolution 50/156).

The President: We now turn to draft resolution II, entitled "Programme of activities for the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People". It corresponds to Third Committee document A/C.3/50/L.30.

Draft resolution II was adopted by the Third Committee without a vote.

May I consider that the Assembly wishes to do likewise?

Draft resolution II was adopted (resolution 50/157).

The President: I now call on the representative of the United States of America, who wishes to speak in explanation of position.

Mr. Gelder (United States of America): With respect to the programme of activities of the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People, my Government has not called for a vote but for the record wishes to note its reservations.

Concerning the programme of activities of the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People, my Government feels that any United Nations programme — no matter how laudable its goals — must make careful use of United Nations resources. In expending scarce resources, we must ensure that we are not engaging in duplicative functions. We also must scrupulously avoid activities that do not necessarily belong in the United Nations system.

Those are our concerns.

The President: May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to conclude its consideration of agenda item 111?

It was so decided.

The President: The Assembly will consider the remaining reports of the Third Committee tomorrow afternoon.

Agenda item 43 *(continued)*

Cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization of African Unity (A/50/L.51/Rev.1)

Report of the Secretary-General (A/50/575 and Add.1)

Draft resolution (A/50/L.51/Rev.1)

The President: Members will recall that the Assembly held the debate on agenda item 43 at its 88th plenary meeting, on 11 December 1995.

The Assembly will now take a decision on the draft resolution.

May I take it that the Assembly decides to adopt draft resolution A/50/L.51/Rev.1?

Draft resolution A/50/L.51/Rev.1 was adopted (resolution 50/158).

The President: May I take it that it is the wish of the Assembly to conclude its consideration of agenda item 43?

It was so decided.

Agenda item 51

Armed Israeli aggression against the Iraqi nuclear installations and its grave consequences for the established international system concerning the peaceful use of nuclear energy, the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons and international peace and security

The President: Members will recall that on 22 September 1995 the Assembly decided to include this item in the agenda of the fiftieth session of the General Assembly.

It is my understanding that it would be desirable to defer consideration of this item to the fifty-first session of the General Assembly.

May I take it that it is the wish of the Assembly to defer consideration of this item and to include it in the provisional agenda of the fifty-first session?

It was so decided.

The President: This concludes our consideration of agenda item 51.

Agenda item 56

Consequences of the Iraqi occupation of and aggression against Kuwait

The President: Members will recall that on 22 September 1995 the Assembly decided to include this item in the agenda of the fiftieth session of the General Assembly.

It is my understanding that it would be desirable to defer consideration of this item to the fifty-first session of the General Assembly.

May I take it that it is the wish of the Assembly to defer consideration of this item and to include it in the provisional agenda of the fifty-first session?

It was so decided.

The President: This concludes our consideration of agenda item 56.

The meeting rose at 4.10 p.m.